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## ABSTRACT

An information on demand system provides a user of a terminal (subscriber) information through a network such as CATV such that the user pays an adequate charge to a server (information provider). According to the information on demand system, the received information can be recorded in a recording medium under control of the terminal equipment. Cases in which 1) the subscriber merely watches a program on a television receiver and: 2) the subscriber records the program and watches it by reproducing the recorded information at another time are distinguished and the subscriber is charged a different amount by the server accordingly.



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**United States Patent** [19]

Imanaka

[11] **Patent Number:** 5,790,172[45] **Date of Patent:** Aug. 4, 1998[54] **SERVER APPARATUS, SUBSCRIBER APPARATUS AND INFORMATION ON DEMAND SYSTEM**[75] **Inventor:** Ryoichi Imanaka, Hirakata, Japan[73] **Assignee:** Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd., Osaka, Japan[21] **Appl. No.:** 503,604[22] **Filed:** Jul. 18, 1995[30] **Foreign Application Priority Data**

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**ABSTRACT**

An information on demand system provides a user of a terminal (subscriber) information through a network such as CATV such that the user pays an adequate charge to a server (information provider). According to the information on demand system, the received information can be recorded in a recording medium under control of the terminal equipment. Cases in which 1) the subscriber merely watches a program on a television receiver and; 2) the subscriber records the program and watches it by reproducing the recorded information at another time are distinguished and the subscriber is charged a different amount by the server accordingly.

**13 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets**